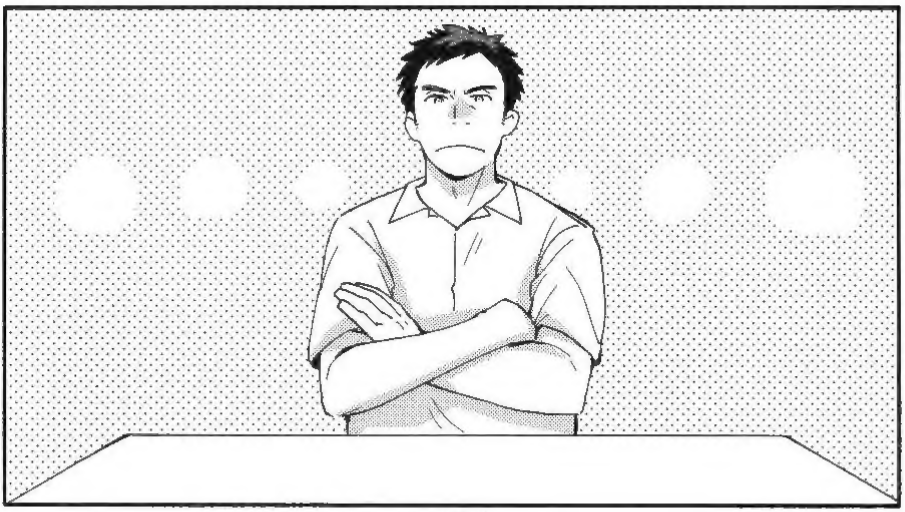
Chapter 28: Uncle & Sanma

FLOOF
We did so much!
Ooh!
Hey!
YAY!
I think it's maybe time to play with Tsumugi!
Chores always start to pile up when the new school year starts...
What's next? We tidied up... and we ate lunch...
?

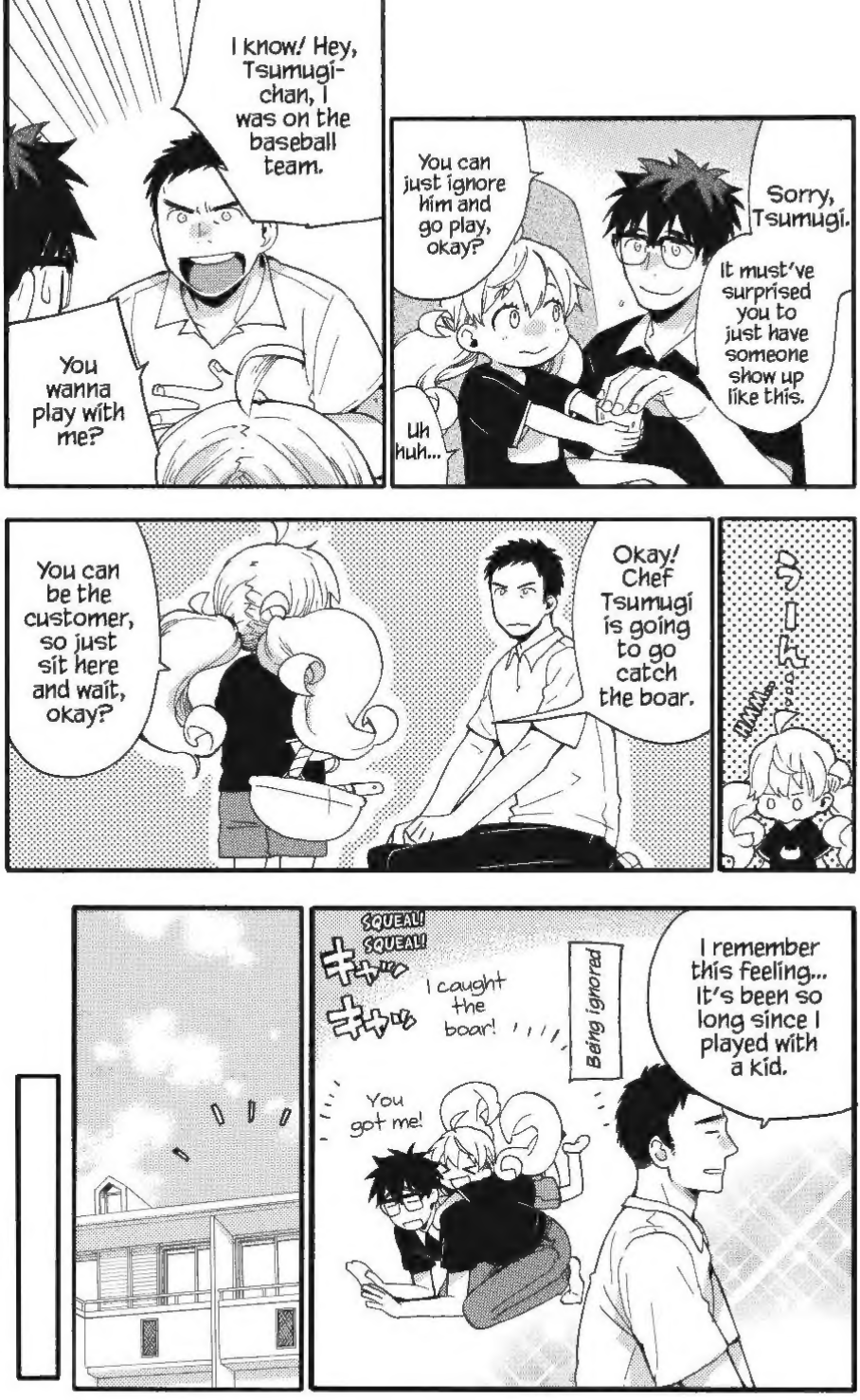
ばっ
WOOSH
Kouhei!
ERK.
Oh, hey...
What're you doing here?
I came to hang out!
ピンポーン
DING-DONG!
Huh?
POOF
SNEAK



Have at it.
C'mon!
Here, Tsumugi. Pudding.
I can come whenever I want, can't I? I'm your brother.
What's up? You didn't bother to call first.

Is something wrong?
It's my day off. Is something wrong?
Thanks for the present, but...
Pudding.

GRUMBLE GRUMBLE GRUMBLE
I've been working all summer with no break...
...and I finally get a day off and was going to spend it at home, when...
What? You're around today, Dad?
You should've told me! I have friends coming over!
SNAP
So you ran away from home?!
They needed to cool off.
So I'm staying here tonight!
HUH?!
...No fighting in front of Tsumugi, okay?
Who's fighting?
...
GASP!
STARE


I know! Hey, Tsumugi-chan, I was on the baseball team.
You wanna play with me?
You can just ignore him and go play, okay?
Sorry, Tsumugi.
It must've surprised you to just have someone show up like this.
Uh huh...
You can be the customer, so just sit here and wait, okay?
Okay! Chef Tsumugi is going to go catch the boar.
SQUEAL! SQUEAL!
I caught the boar!
Being ignored
You got me!
I remember this feeling... It's been so long since I played with a kid.

I'm fine with going out. We can get sushi if you want.
Oh!
It's that time already, huh?
It's almost dinner-time!
Let's go shopping, Daddy!
Okay!
Go get your bag, Tsumugi.
DASH
ダッ
It's fine. I'll make some-thing.
Eat this!
AWKWARD.
Huh?
You ever think about getting remarried?

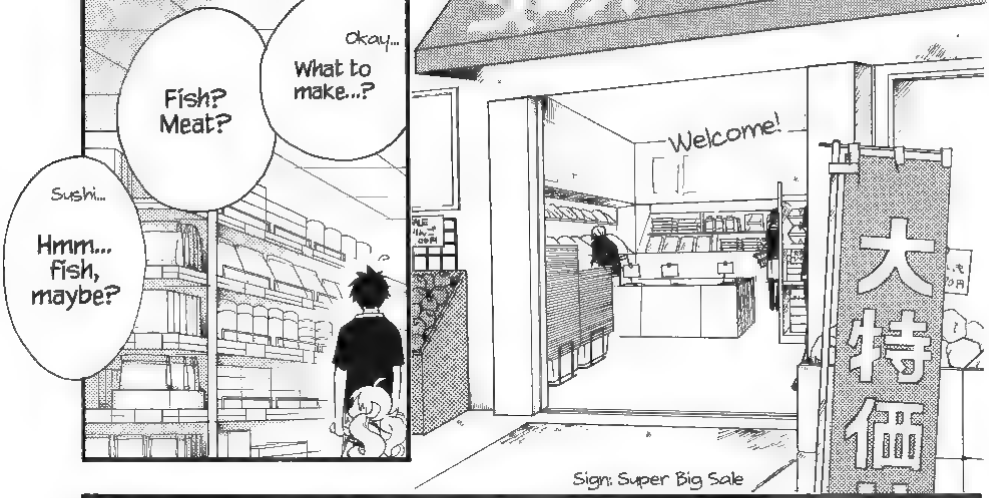
Don't say that kind of stuff in front of Tsumugi, okay?
It's important!
What are you talking about?
...
Who else is gonna tell you?
I don't want to hear that from you!
...and start thinking about what's best for her.
You need to stop talking about how you don't want to change things too much...
Th-That'd be kind of a pain.
If you're gonna push this, you can get the hell out! Spend the night at Mom and Dad's!

The way you act—
ガチャ
KA-CHAK
Dad—
ANNOYED
イライラ
はっ
GASP!
Tsumugi.
Let's go.
Okay...
If you want to eat dinner with us, then get some rice ready.
バタン
SLAM

No, that's not it...
You okay, Daddy?
...Is Uncle a bully?
I knew I didn't like him.
It's not that I don't like him.
SQUEEZE
I'm sorry. I'm sorry it's so awkward.
AWW...

Oh...
His demon mode just lasts longer than most people's...
...my likes and dislikes.
...to start imitating...
I don't want her...
What the heck?
How terrible!
GASP!
A demon!
I know... I know what that's like!
That's right.
I don't think he's really such a bad guy.
?!
Huh? What is it?
HEH!
...what a demon's weakness is!
I think I know...
A demon, huh? A demon ...

Even demons smile when they eat yummy food!
I see...
Yummy food is your specialty, right, Daddy? I'll help, too!
Okay, maybe I'll put in extra effort today!
Me, too!
I wonder if he'll smile!
I hope he does!
I'm counting on you, bro...


Okay...
What to make...?
Fish? Meat?
Sushi...
Hmm... fish, maybe?
Welcome!
大特価
Sign: Super Big Sale

CHANCE MEETING
Hm-mmm....

BEAM

Huh?
Oh, hey, you two.
Sen-sei!
Oh!
You out shop-ping?

Ooh.
We've got a guest today so we're cooking for three!
What will you make?
Wow! You look great!
It's been forever!
Something that'll make our guest smile!
We're gonna make something really yummy!
Is that so?
I do that too!
Well...
We were going to figure it out once we got to the store...
Yeah!
Oh, right. Any good recipes for fish?
Huh?
What do you think's good, Kotori-chan?

W-Well let me see... Today...
sanma are cheap! Those look good!
Sanma!
Sanma, huh?
Ooh...
If you want a western dish, you can also do tomato stew.
You can salt it and grill it whole, or fillet it and broil it in sweet sauce...
Sanma!
GLEAM
You want one where the stomach...
...which is where the organs are, feels dense.
Tell us how to make the tomato one!
Okay!
We make it all the time at home.

Hmm
Hmm
Hmm!
Which one looks good?

Thank you so much.
Not at all.
I'll send you the recipe.

I haven't ...
Huh?
Why?
Wel...
B-because it's summer vacation.
And we had tests in July...

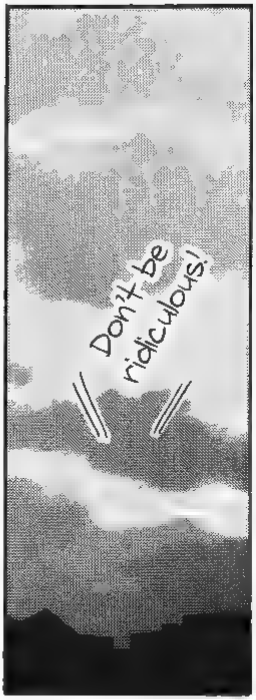
JOLT
You been meeting with them to cook lately?

Bye-bye!

We had cake with Chiyo!
Why does that matter?
HUH?
If I asked him to do it near my birthday it'd be like I wanted him to celebrate it...
And that seemed really self-centered...
It's my birthday this month!
B-But!
WAUCH!
SQUEEZE
And this month?
...

Welcome back.
We're back!

Sanma!
Ooh!


Don't be ridiculous!

You can cook?
I've never cooked sanma before...
But I've cooked aji and buri, so it'll be fine.
HUH...
HEH HEH.
Now then...
First, how to fillet a sanma...
I recommend this guy's videos.
HOW TO FILLET SANMA
I see...
You're not gonna grill it?
LOOM

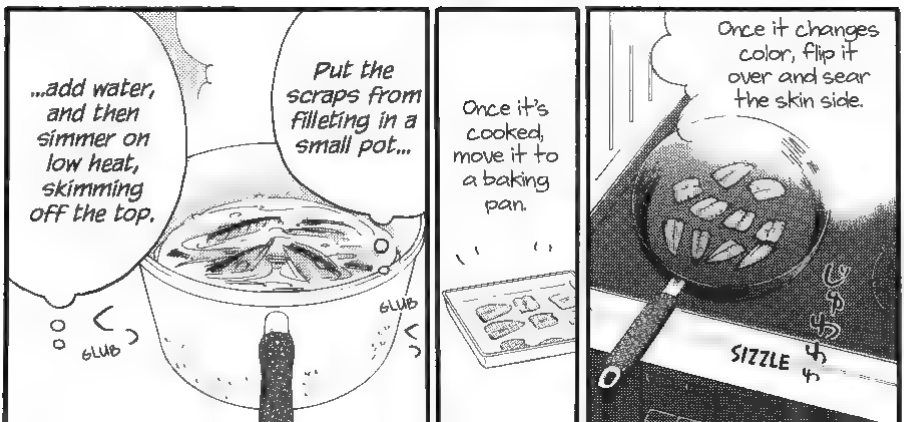
Demon...
はっ
GASP
H-hey!
Give me that.
SHOVE
SHOVE
Grilled is the only way to go!
Okay. You make one and we'll all share.
I'll broil one and make tomato stew.
SIGH
Yeah!
We're having a sanma party, right Tsumugi?
I'll help too!

It's dangerous.
I wanna see!
'Kay!
Okay! Tsumugi, wash your hands!
I wanna do it too!
carefully carefully..
SPLASH
じゃぼ

...
Make sure you wash under your nails too.
My hands smell like fishies!
SNIFF
Here.
SNIFF
Lightly sprinkle with salt and then pat with flour...
I can pat!
We'll use half of that for the broiled one, so we can set that aside...
We cut it into three pieces.
NRRRGH...
SCRUB SCRUB
Oh!
Oh!
PAT
PAT
Here we go.

Got it.
Add olive oil to the frying pan and fry it with the skin up...
ジュワワ
SIZZLE
How's that?!
Great job!

I wonder if we can meet up again soon.
Tsumugi wanted to play with her, too...
Ask them if you're busy.
You're right!
They'll also fillet your fish for you.
WHISPER...
...to have somebody to give you detailed advice.
It really is a big help...
Middle book: Basic Recipes
Left book: Simple Dishes and Lunches


...add water, and then simmer on low heat, skimming off the top.
Put the scraps from filleting in a small pot...
GLUB
GLUB
Once it's cooked, move it to a baking pan.
Once it changes color, flip it over and sear the skin side.
SIZZLE

Let's eat in the living room today.
Tsumugi, can you wipe down the table?
WIPE!
It makes it taste really good, it says.
Simmer it on low heat for 15 minutes.
You put the bones in, too!

You've done it before, right?
SHUNK
I have!
I think it's time for me to start grilling!
Cough cough
Okay.
While that's going, I'll mince the onions...

I thought you didn't do any chores.
Huh.
What about you? You never did any cooking, did you?
It's my job to roast the fish.

...
NNF! んしょっ
NNF! うんしょっ
Yeah, but that had to change.

I can at least introduce you to somebody.
But about what I said before...
I'm busy...
...so I can't do much.

...

Meeting someone new...
Actually, I've never thought about it...
glue
glue
To be honest, I don't know.
I can't think about it right now.
For now...
I'm just focusing on figuring out how to have a good life with Tsumugi.
...
I see.

If only my daughter were a good girl like you...
Tha-
Thank you!
You're a great girl, helping like that!
Thanks!
Daddy, I'm done!
BWAAHH
A good girl like you...
It's for you
I made this with mommy.
Bab buu
Okay!
Daddy!
Me 'n Daddy are best friends!
Shut up!
Someday she's gonna be a teenager and she'll be a jerk to you, too!
HA HA HA!
Best friends!
I don't know what it's like over there, so I can't say anything, but why don't you talk to her?
SOB

...then saute the minced onions...
SIZZLE
じゅわわわ～
ごはっ
SPLASH
Run it through a strainer to get the broth...
Broth
1 cup is enough
Not yet!
Is it ready?
When they turn golden, add the tomato and bay leaf and simmer them.
Then add salt and the broth you just made, and stew for 15 minutes.
HEE HEE HEE!
ﾌﾌﾌ
After that we'll add the mushrooms and sanma and it'll be done.
While that's cooking, we can make the broiled version in sweet sauce!
Hey, you're making all that?
Because uncle's our guest!
Right?

When you have a guest over, you have a party!
Okay...
It's ready!
CHOMP
Your uncle's salt-grilled one turned out good too!
I want to try the tomato one!
Yay!
I started with yours 'cause you're the oldest!

Man...
Salt-grilled with grated daikon is the way to go with sanma.
It's cooked perfectly...
The tomato stew's tasty!
It's delicious!
YUM YUM YUM!
How's this?
1, 2, 3...
DROP
BA-DUM
BA-DUM
/Salt-roasted/

Mmm...
Hm. Thanks.
もぐ CHEW
もぐ CHEW
You're right! The salt-roasted is good too!
はぐ NOM
はぐ NOM
...like this.
If you eat it...
I know! It goes great with rice!
And the broiled version goes well with rice.

Ha...
Ha ha ha...
Hey!
Slow down! Eat slower!
Yeah!
Yeah!

Ah ha ha!

Huh?
You're not staying the night?
Well.
I don't often get two days off...

To be continued...